



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1734
Examiner : Brenda A. Lamb
Serial No. : 09/628,405
Filed : August 1, 2000
Inventors : Ichiro Tanokuchi
: Sachihiro Iida
Title : GAS WIPING APPARATUS
: AND METHOD



22469

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: 1299-00
Confirmation No.: 5642
Dated: December 12, 2002

TC 1700

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TL 12/19/02AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated September 24, 2002, Applicants amend as follows:

In the Claims (Marked-Up Version)

1. (Amended) A gas wiping apparatus comprising:

face gas wiping nozzles extending widthwise of a strip material lifted from a liquid bath and caused to travel continuously upwardly along a jet treatment path, said strip having front and back surfaces and side edges, said strip carrying bath liquid on its surfaces by pickup from said bath,

said face gas wiping nozzles being adjacent to said jet treatment path and being directed to jet gases onto said front and back surfaces of said strip material, and being aimed at an impingement area on said front and back surfaces of said strip material, thereby limiting the pickup of said bath liquid carried by said front and back surfaces of said strip material;

a pair of baffle plates spaced from said edges of said strip material and in a position adjacent to said gas impingement area; said baffle plates having a clearance C from said edges of said strip material; and

edge wiping nozzles disposed between each of said baffle plates at its inner edge and adjacent an edge of said strip material, each said edge wiping nozzle being provided with an edge wiping gas jet port positioned adjacent said gas impingement area, each said edge